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LETTER DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 November 1992 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning violations in northern Iraq by the coalition countries and the exploitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 2 November 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

In previous letters I described some of the flagrant violations committed in northern Iraq by the so-called coalition countries and their use of the provision of humanitarian assistance as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq and attempt to undermine its security and stability.

Once again, I bring to your attention a serious development that took place in the context of this open interference. On 23 September 1992, the Turkish information media disseminated a report that Turkish authorities had discovered a shipment of military material on board a French C-160 aircraft carrying what they call humanitarian supplies for Kurds in northern Iraq, while it was being refuelled at Diyarbakir military airfield. The report was corroborated by a statement made by a spokesman for the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same day, when he said that a non-governmental organization based in the United Kingdom, licensed by the European Council and having obtained clearance from the Security Council Sanctions Committee had been at the bottom of the affair.

This serious incident brings renewed confirmation that the protestations of concern to provide humanitarian assistance to northern Iraq made purely by the coalition countries are fraudulent, inasmuch as arms are being supplied under the cover of humanitarian assistance. The incident represents a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and constitutes interference in its internal affairs, and responsibility for it falls on the parties sending the items in question and on the Sanctions Committee for permitting their shipment in violation of the rules governing its work. Such action on the part of the Committee confronts it with questions concerning its well-known unbending attitude in rejecting many of the requests submitted by countries and firms to be allowed to supply Iraq with food, medicines and basic civilian items. I should like to refer, in this connection, to my letter of 7 August 1992 (S/24392) and to my letter of 20 September 1992, both addressed to the Secretary-General, in which I described cases of many requests concerning urgently needed basic requirements of the Iraqi people being rejected or left pending.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq